The Swineherd

Opera da Camera for soprano, tenor, flute, viola, harp, and percussion

William Osborne
Intentionally blank
Performance Notes

Notation
Each player reads from a full score.

\( \text{[\text{pause/hold approximately 9 seconds}]} \)

**Page one:** Read in the following order: 23, 31, 12, 13, 11, 22, 21, etc. Each circle has an independence of tempo and vertical relation with the other parts but the total duration of each circle should be approximately the same. When the last circle has completed 23 go directly to the "coalition phrase." Pause 5-9 seconds between each part.

**Page two:** For the circle follow a numerical order beginning each successive part according to the cue arrows. E.g. \( \text{[\text{pause at this point. If there is no cue the next section follows in tempo.}}] \)

**Page six:** Each circle follows the numerical order. Pause 2-9 seconds between each part. As indicated the top circle waits about 15 seconds before entering and the bottom circle about 27. The circles should end at approximately the same time.

**Page nine:** Read in the same manner as the page two circle.

All instruments sound where written except glockenspiel, celesta, and crystal glockenspier which sound 2 or higher. Crystal glockenspiel sound 15 or higher.

Special Effects
Percussion: **Bowed crotale**-Stroke crotale with a well rossled bass bow. On pages one and nine two crotales are bowed at once thus requiring two bass bows. **Crystal glockenspiel**-Rub a moistened finger around the rim of a goblet tuned with water. Harmonics: The part can be played by the percussionist because it is very simple. The passages on pages seven and eight appear difficult but they aren't because they involve only the lowest and highest triads of the instrument with a glissando in between. The vowel effects are produced by forming them with the mouth while playing. Tremolos are produced by a fast back and forth lateral movement of the instrument across the mouth.

Voice: 0-\( \text{a} \) means to modulate gradually between the vowel sounds. Trills notated thus are Monteverdi trills.

(I.e. A tremolo on a single note.) The vowel sounds of the vocalise on page ten are pronounced as they would be in Italian.

Staging
The work may be performed staged or unstaged. If staged the instrumentalists should not play from a pit but on stage behind the singers. A platform might be used. Some simple stage directions are given in the score. Two props are necessary, a red rose and some glass wind chimes. Costuming, lighting, and staging can be very simple or more elaborate if the means are available. The "Dance" and "Revelation" can be used as ballets. The work is very freely based on the fairy tale of Hans Christian Anderson of the same name.

Voices and Instrumentation

Soprano
Tenor
Viola
Flute
Harp

Percussion:

- Vibraphone
- Crotale (sounds 3 or 4)
- Glockenspiel
- Xylophone
- Tubular bells
- 6 tuned membranres
- 2 suspended cymbals (large and small)
- Harmonica in G minor
- 5 wood blocks
- Indian blocks
- Maracas
- Glass chimes
- Bell tree
- 2 bass bows
- Crystal glockenspiel

(actual pitch)
Libretto

To be presented with the atmosphere and suspension of a dream.

Gift

[The lighting has risen on a Prince. He is holding a Rose. His mind has been abstracted by its beauty.]

Prince: "Rose,... Rose of the Garden, Rose of dreams."

[As he sings this last phrase he gives the Rose to the Princess as the lighting rises on her. She is bewildered and confused by the gift. She does not know if she is dreaming or if it is real.]

Princess: "Between two worlds, Like ghostly angels, Vivid visions— Sights will..."

"Rose... Nocturne’s Flower, Celestial dream. Rose..."

[Lighting fades on Princess.]

(Dance)

Seduction

[The lighting has slowly risen on the Prince and Princess. His back is to the audience. He has made the magic chimes and she is enchanted and bewitched by their beauty. She casts the Rose aside...]

Princess: "Why that’s my song I hear among the pens. Let’s find this man of taste And be his friend."

"Kind Sir, what do you want for those sweet chimes? They ring so beautifully in your gentle hand. For now I find my long sought fancy Is now a part of this reality."

[He musingly rings the glass chimes. Then singing as he turns, exposes to her horror, the grotesque mask of a swineherd.]

Prince: "Ten Kisses!"

Princess: "Oh how rude you are! I leave at once. This dirty pigman who creates such silly stunts. You are a man beneath my kiss And for that price, the chimes I will dismiss."

[He sounds the chimes again. Falling under their spell she succumbs.]

Princess: "Listen, Listen to the chimes, How sweet the song. "Very well... Very well..."

[She embraces him. The lighting fades.]

(Revelation)

Banishment

[The Princess appears in a dim light shocked and anguish. She has been banished from her realm for kissing the swineherd. She sings a soliloquy and takes up the Rose she had cast aside.]

Princess: "Between two worlds, Ghostly angels."

[A dim light has appeared on the Prince. He is now without the mask.]

Prince: "The Rose you would not have."

Princess: "Life’s a dream."

Prince: "Banished forever."

Princess: "Am I dreaming?"

[The light on the Prince gradually fades. The Princess continues...]

Princess: "Ah my dear Augustine, Our dreams are done, done, done..."

"Ah my dear Augustine, Our dreams are done, done, done..."
The Swineherd
(A FAIRYTALE)
for soprano, tenor, flute, viola, harmonica, harp, and perc.

WILLIAM OSBORNE

[ILLUMINATION OF THE ROSE]

Gift
chimerico f ca. 60


circular phrases

The lighting rises on the Rose, he is holding a rose. His mind has been abducted by its beauty.

[COALITION PHASE]
As he sings this last phrase she gives the ring to the Princess. She is bewitched and confused by the gift. She does not know if she is dreaming or if it is real.
Seduction
Magical (sforzando)

Percussion

Flute
Viola

Bowed crot.
Vibraphone

Bell tree
Vibraphone

Harp

[Panoply of the Chimes]

* If the Flute does not have a 9th key raise the A one octave.
The lighting has slowly risen on the Prince and Princess. His back is to the audience. He has made the music, James and she is enchanted and bewitched by their beauty. She calls the rose aside:

Enchanted, Bewitched (fiss. 49)

Princess

why, that's my song. I hear a ringing in the pan. Let's find the man who has his music.

Kind sir, what do you want for these sweets?

viola

bowed crotalines

harp

Arabbattismo!
sotto molto piano (fiss. 120)

Oh how rude you are! I leave at once. This is the bigger who creates such silly stunts. You are a man.

tenor

viola

perc. I.

vibraph.

harp

Princess

beneath my kiss and for that price, the chimes I will dismiss.

viola

harmonica

perc. II.

harp

molto rallentando (fiss. 46)
Subito a tempo

viola

harmonica

cantilis

vlph.

harp

molto meno mosso (Rico 60)
(entrances only approximate)

violin

harmonica

vlph.

harp

Sempre Cadendo...
ancora molto meno mosso (Rico 30)

Pianissimo

Listen to the chimes... low sweet the song.

vlph.

harp

memoranda

harmonica

bowed cantilis

vlph.

* G may be played one octave lower on glissando.
Revelation

The upper rate of the trill should barely sound. The effect should be a gentle warble.

Glissandos and harmonics for viola only.

Vertical relationships and relative tempos should only be approximate.
Banishment

Darkly (öff. 30)

The Princess appears in a dim light shadowed and amplified.

Vocalise; mormente a lento mosso (lo stesso tempo)

Poco a poco più mosso e espressione...

Subito molto più mosso (öff. 150)

She gradually becomes overwhelmed by a dream and takes up the note she had cast aside.

Sopr. cymb. (scratch with coin)

* See performance notes

* * * triplet
Princess

Between two worlds... ghostly angels...

Prince

A dim light has appeared on the Prince. He is now without the mask.

Like a dream...

The light on the Prince gradually fades.

Am I dreaming?

Your rose you would not have

Banished for ever...

Morendo poco a poco a silenzio...

mezzo piano (viss. #8)

Princess

Ah my dear Augustine...

Our dreams are done, done, done...

Ah my dear Augustine...

POCO A POCO Meno piano

Our dreams are done...